

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 235604

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 235604

TOSEC 150

FOLLOWING REPEAT LISBON 4644 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DATED
25 OCTOBER 1974:

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4644

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PROP PO

SUBJ: ANTI-CIA PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN

1. AT END OF CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES, REQUESTED
FOR DISCUSSION OTHER MATTERS, AMBASSADOR MENTIONED
EMBASSY'S UNHAPPINESS AT RECENT ARTICLES ATTACKING CIA
AND ALLEGING MASSIVE CIA INTERVENTION IN PORTUGAL (SEE
SEPTTEL). BEFORE AMBASSADOR HAD FINISHED FIRST SENTENCE
DEALING WITH THIS SUBJECT, SOARES INTERRUPTED STATING
THAT ARTICLES IN DIARIO DE LISBOA AND VIDA MUNDIAL MADE
IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THE COMMUNISTS WERE LAUNCHING AN
ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN OF DEFAMATION AGAINST CIA
IN ORDER TO IMPAIR GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US
AND PORTUGAL AND IMPEDE THE AZORES NEGOTIATIONS. IT
WAS OBVIOUS TO HIM THAT THE TIMING WAS DESIGNED TO COUNTER
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PAGE 02 STATE 235604

THE FAVORABLE IMAGE OF US-GOP RELATIONS RESULTING FROM

COSTA GOMES' AND HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND, AS SUCH, REPRESENTED AN ATTACK ON HIM AND COSTA GOMES AS WELL AS AGAINST THE US. HE SAID THAT HE HAD AN APPOINTMENT TO SEE PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES ONE HOUR LATER AND THAT HE HAD INTENDED, BEFORE THE AMBASSADOR MENTIONED THE SUBJECT, TO TAKE UP THIS MATTER WITH THE PRESIDENT AND HE INTENDS ALSO TO RAISE IT IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

2. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT HE WAS NOT MAKING A FORMAL OFFICIAL PROTEST OVER THIS PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN, BUT MERELY WISHED TO BRING IT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S ATTENTION THAT THE APPEARANCE OF SUCH ARTICLES WILL, OF COURSE, BE NOTED BY AMERICAN AND OTHER FOREIGN JOURNALISTS IN LISBON WHOSE REPORTS WILL COMPLICATE THE TASK OF THE EMBASSY TO PRESENT TO WASHINGTON A BALANCED PICTURE OF EVENTS IN PORTUGAL. SOARES INDICATED HIS FULL AWARENESS OF THIS ASPECT OF THE MATTER. HE DID NOT INDICATE PRECISELY WHAT HE INTENDED TO DO OR WHAT COULD BE DONE BUT LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT SOME MEASURES COULD BE UNDERTAKEN TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION.

3. SAME AFTERNOON SOARES CALLED DCM TO ADVISE THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES AND PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES, BOTH OF WHOM SHARE HIS CONCERN OVER THE MATTER. THEY HAVE DECIDED TO HAVE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS ENTER INTO CONTACT WITH NEWSPAPER EDITORS AND UNDERTAKE INVESTIGATION TO LEARN SOURCE OF CAMPAIGN. PRIME MINISTER ALSO WISHES APPOINTMENT EARLY NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH AMBASSADOR.

4. APPOINTMENT WITH PRIME MINISTER WILL BE SCHEDULED NO EARLIER THAN NEXT TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, SHOULD DEPARTMENT WISH PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON THIS OR ANY OTHER SUBJECT TO BE RAISED WITH GONCALVES. SCOTT UNQTE INGERSOLL

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